



Old Globe Theatre | Cassius Carter Centre Stage | Lowell Davies Festival Theatre

News

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OLD GLOBE TO PRESENT THREE EXCITING HOLIDAY PRODUCTIONS IN 2003

***SAN DIEGO'S FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION:
DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS! RETURNS FOR 6TH YEAR
Globe Production Joins Special Year-Long "Seussentennial" Celebration***

– GLOBE PRESENTS WEST COAST PREMIERE OF *STRIKING 12* –

– *LA PASTORELA* RETURNS TO OLD GLOBE ON OUTDOOR STAGE –

San Diego – The Old Globe is pleased to announce three thrilling shows for the 2003 holiday season, including the sixth annual presentation of San Diego's favorite holiday tradition: **Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*** (November 9 – December 31) in the Old Globe Theatre. This year the Globe will also be offering a delightful New Year's Eve musical in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage, entitled ***Striking 12*** (December 7 – 31), written and performed by the popular rock group GrooveLily. Finally, the Globe will present Teatro Máscara Mágica's acclaimed production of ***La Pastorela de Felicidad*** (December 12-14; 18-21; 26-28) in the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre. Tickets for all three productions go on sale on **September 7 at 10:00am** and can be purchased by calling the Old Globe's Ticket Services Department at **(619) 23-GLOBE**, by visiting the Globe box office in Balboa Park or on line at www.TheOldGlobe.org.

"We are thrilled this year to present not one, not two, but THREE delightful holiday productions at the Globe," said Artistic Director Jack O'Brien. "Our own beloved Grinch takes center stage, plus two delightful shows in the Carter and Festival theatres – one an enchanting New Year's Eve tale; the other a fascinating retelling of the nativity story, *La Pastorela*, which will turn the Festival stage into a community fiesta!"

"It is such a wonderful homecoming to perform *La Pastorela de Felicidad* at the Globe this year," said director William Virchis. "What began as a part of Globe Artistic Director Craig Noel's dream to establish a multicultural stronghold at one of the city's most beloved arts institutions has become a favorite holiday tradition in this community, and it is a thrill to bring *La Pastorela* back to the Globe, to reach even broader audiences in the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre.

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Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

Book & Lyrics by Timothy Mason; Music by Mel Marvin

Directed by Jack O'Brien

Old Globe Theatre

November 9 – December 31, 2003

Opening Night: Thursday, November 13 at 7pm

Performance Schedule

- Previews: Nov 9 at 5:30pm; Nov 11 and Nov 12 at 7pm
- Tuesdays at 7pm (Dec 23 and Dec 30 at 2pm & 7pm; no performances Nov 18 & Nov 25)
- Wednesdays at 7pm (Dec 31 at 1pm and 5:30pm; no performance Nov 19)
- Thursdays at 7pm (closed Thanksgiving & Christmas Days)
- Fridays at 7:30pm (Nov 28 at 2pm & 7:30pm; Dec 5 at 5pm; Dec 26 at 1pm & 5:30pm)
- Saturdays at 2pm & 7:30pm (Nov 15 at 7:30pm only; Dec 6 at 1pm & 5pm)
- Sundays at 1pm & 5:30pm
- Monday, Dec 22 and 29 at 7pm

America's favorite holiday fable, back for a sixth incredible year, is a wonderful, whimsical production that will once again jump right off the pages of the classic Dr. Seuss book and onto the Old Globe stage. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* has been hailed by critics: "This *Grinch* is a smash," wrote the *L.A. Times*, while the *San Diego Union-Tribune* raved, "Jack O'Brien scaled this Globe holiday show...to the heartfelt humanity of the season." Come take part in the fun as the Globe is transformed into snow-covered *Who*-ville right down to the last can of *Who*-hash! As an added feature of this holiday celebration, the Globe again plans to feature many wonderful characters and graphic elements from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* in a mini *Who*-ville on the outdoor Copley Plaza throughout the run of the production.

This year's presentation of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* also incorporates festivities surrounding the Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) "Seussentennial" celebration. In commemoration of what would have been Mr. Geisel's 100th birthday on March 4, 2004, The Old Globe will join in a yearlong tribute, in conjunction with Dr. Seuss Enterprises, to honor the man known and loved by generations of Americans as Dr. Seuss.

The Globe's celebratory events will kick off in November 2003 with various Seuss activities, including its production of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, celebrity readings, and various other outreach initiatives to promote literacy. The Globe will also be continuing its annual **Seussabration** event and other programs that provide over 4000 free tickets to underserved children and families in the community to see *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*. This year the Globe will also institute its first annual **Grinch Family Day Gala** (November 15), a very special holiday event where San Diego families can enjoy a fun day of theater activities, as well as attend a performance of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, meet the cast and get a backstage tour of the Globe.

Tickets for *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* go on sale **September 7 at 10:00am** and can be purchased by calling the Old Globe's Ticket Services Department at **(619) 23-GLOBE**, by visiting the Globe box office in Balboa Park or on line at www.TheOldGlobe.org. Ticket prices range from \$15-25 for children 17 years of age and under; \$20-\$55 for adults.

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Striking 12

By Brendan Milburn, Rachel Sheinkin and Valerie Vigoda

Directed by Ted Sperling

Cassius Carter Centre Stage

December 7 – 31

Opening Night: Wednesday, December 10 at 8pm

Performance Schedule

- Previews: Dec 7 at 2pm & 7pm; Dec 9 at 8pm
- Tuesdays at 8pm (Dec 30 at 7pm & 10pm)
- Wednesdays at 8pm (Dec 31 at 7pm & 10pm; closed Christmas Eve)
- Thursdays at 8pm (closed Christmas Day)
- Fridays at 8pm (Dec 26 at 7pm & 10pm)
- Saturdays at 7pm & 10pm
- Sundays at 2pm & 7pm
- Monday, Dec 22 at 8pm; Dec 29 at 7pm

Playing in the Carter opposite "Grinch" will be the delightful musical ***Striking 12***, a refreshing and fun holiday show performed by the up-and-coming rock group, **GrooveLily**. This unique show blends the contemporary tale of a grumpy guy home alone on New Year's Eve, with Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Match Girl."

Keyboardist/singer Brendan Milburn plays a disconsolate man on the annual end-of-year holiday until a pretty door-to-door saleswoman, Valerie Vigoda (on vocals and electric violin), offers to sell him special light bulbs to help chase away "Seasonal Affective Disorder," or SAD. Brendan sends her off, but soon regrets his rude dismissal upon re-reading the poignant fairy tale about the poor 19th century Danish match seller. The group's drummer and third lead vocalist, Gene Lewin, also chimes in with various funny incidental characters throughout the show. The Philadelphia Enquirer wrote, "This holiday-themed show by the pop trio GrooveLily is an inventive presentation that is part theater piece, part concert, and wholly entertaining." Filled with smart pop writing, virtuoso musicianship and riveting vocals by all three performers, this charming production gives audiences a fun twist on the holidays along with an enchanting concert evening with GrooveLily!

Singer and electric violinist **Valerie Vigoda** has toured with Cyndi Lauper, Cher, Tina Turner and Joe Jackson. A classically trained musician, former army lieutenant (she is currently featured in the Department of Defense's new ad campaign, "Today's Military"), and an honors graduate of Princeton University, she founded Groovelily in 1994 with a critically-acclaimed CD called "Inhabit My Heart." Keyboardist **Brendan Milburn's** two-fisted, rhythmic piano style is reminiscent of early Billy Joel. Before joining Groovelily, he graduated from Pomona College and NYU's MFA program in Musical Theatre Writing, and played with Ben Harper and Clarence Clemons. After graduating from Princeton University, drummer **Gene Lewin** earned a Master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music. He is featured on CDs with George Coleman, John Patitucci and others.

Tickets for *Striking 12* go on sale **September 7 at 10:00am** and can be purchased by calling Globe Ticket Services at **(619) 23-GLOBE**, by visiting the Globe box office in Balboa Park or on line at www.TheOldGlobe.org. Ticket prices range from \$19 - \$47.

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La Pastorela de Felicidad

By Max Branscomb, Teatro Máscara Mágica

Directed by William Virchis

Lowell Davies Festival Theatre

December 12-14; 18-21; 26-28, 2003

Performance Schedule

- Fridays at 7:30pm
- Saturdays at 7:30pm (Dec 20 and Dec 27 at 4pm & 7:30pm)
- Sundays at 7:30pm (Dec 21 at 4pm & 7:30pm; Dec 28 at 4pm only)
- Thursday, Dec 18 at 7:30pm

The Old Globe will also present Teatro Máscara Mágica's acclaimed holiday play, *La Pastorela de Felicidad*, created by William Virchis and Globe Literary and Multicultural Associate Raúl Moncada, bringing this popular community production back to the Globe, its first home in San Diego. Considered the oldest Christmas show in existence, *La Pastorela de Felicidad* tells the story (in English and Spanish) of the shepherds who, on their way Bethlehem, are waylaid by the devil and his minions, but the Archangels Michael and Gabriel step in to assist the weary travelers in reaching their destination. Each year, the story is told in new and different way, often incorporating topical themes and music. The San Diego Union-Tribune wrote, "A rambunctious pageant of song, jokes and mock battles between the angels and simple folks against the forces of evil; while the L.A. Times raved that the show is "packed with humor and song."

Founded in 1989 by William Virchis and Dr. Jorge Huerta, Teatro Máscara Mágica is a culturally diverse, community-based team of artists and supporters of the arts who believe that all races, creeds and cultures should have the opportunity for artistic expression and experiences of the highest quality – particularly in the multi-sensorial realm of live theatre.

William Alejandro Virchis, former professor and artistic director at Southwestern College, currently serves as Director of Visual and Performing Arts at the Sweetwater Union High School District. In the 1970s, Virchis directed the Old Globe's GET Tour; and in 1981, he, Dr. Jorge Huerta and Craig Noel founded Teatro Meta, the Globe's bilingual playwriting program. Virchis and Huerta co-directed the Puerto Rican play, *The Fanlights/Los Soles Truncos*, in the Carter in 1983, offering performances in English and Spanish. He has also directed productions at Starlight, SDSU, UC Riverside, San Diego Gilbert and Sullivan Repertory, Centro Cultural de la Raza, and many others. Virchis serves on the Public Arts Advisory Council for the County of San Diego and previously on the Commission for Arts & Culture. In 1999 he directed the national touring production of *Selena*.

A journalism professor at Southwestern College, **Max Branscomb** has written over 10 *Pastorelas* for Teatro Máscara Mágica, and several others for theaters in Los Angeles and Tucson, among his 60 produced plays. Co founder of Bonitafest Melodrama, Branscomb recently completed recording his sung-through musical *JFK*. He is currently working on a new drama about Mexican healer Teresita and a play about immigrants who have died crossing the border for Borderlands Theatre of Tucson.

Tickets for *La Pastorela de Felicidad* go on sale **September 7 at 10:00am** and can be purchased by calling Globe Ticket Services at **(619) 23-GLOBE**, by visiting the Globe box office in Balboa Park or on line at www.TheOldGlobe.org. Ticket prices: children: \$6 (under 18); seniors/students/military: \$12; adults: \$18.

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